

CLAIMS

What is claimed to be new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A lift seat for moving a user to and from a floor, comprising:
 - a) a base frame, wherein said base frame is horizontally disposed to support the lift seat;
 - b) a lifting column disposed on said base frame, wherein said lifting column is upright standing;
 - c) a seat support disposed on said lifting column;
 - d) a seat disposed on said seat support for use by a person, wherein said seat has a substantially planar bottom, wherein said bottom is substantially rigid; and,
 - e) a hoisting gear disposed internal said lifting column for moving said seat up and down said lifting column, wherein said seat moves in a substantially vertical path from a lowest position wherein a front lip of the seat touches the floor to an uppermost position which is higher than a normal sitting height.
2. The lift seat of Claim 1, wherein said hoisting gear further comprises an electric motor equipped with a handheld control device which controls the movement of said seat.

3. The lift seat of Claim 2, wherein said handheld control device can be operated by the user of said seat.

4. The lift seat of Claim 2, wherein said handheld control device can be operated by a person adjacent to said seat.

5. The lift seat of Claim 4, further comprising a plurality of wheels being disposed on said base frame, wherein engagement of said wheels with the floor enables the lift seat to be rolled about for relocation.

6. The lift seat of Claim 5, wherein said means for moving said seat comprises a handle disposed on said lifting column to assist in relocation of said lift seat.

7. The lift seat of Claim 6, further comprising arms being disposed on said seat, wherein said arms are supported by said seat support, wherein said arms provide additional support for a person when entering and exiting said seat.

8. The lift seat of Claim 7, wherein said base frame comprises a plurality of substantially horizontal legs connected by a cross member, said legs having a bottom side, wherein said bottom side of said legs are equipped with non-skid pads.

9. The lift chair of Claim 8, wherein said wheels comprise a pair of wheels connected to said rear of said base frame in a slightly elevated position and on the opposite side of said lift column from said seat, wherein said wheels engage the floor when said lift chair is tilted in the direction of said wheels.

10. A method for raising and lowering a person to and from the floor, comprising:

- a) providing a lift seat, the seat having a rigid bottom mounted on a seat support frame;
- b) mounting the lift seat on a vertical lifting column supported by a base frame; and,
- c) moving the lift seat up or down along the vertical lifting column.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of moving the front lip of the lift seat to a position which touches the floor when the lift seat is in the lowest position.

12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of controlling the movement of the lift seat with a handheld control device.

13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of using a manual hand crank to move the lift seat up and down the vertical lifting column.